

THE WAVE by MORTON RHUE - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Character – the essay may require you to describe...

- How a character changes / grows
- The relationship between two or more characters (Laurie & David, Mr Ross & Robert)
- An important character and why they were important (Laurie, Ben Ross)
- What a character learns (Mr Ross, Laurie, David)
- The challenges a character faces (Laurie, Mr Ross)
- Character conflict (L. & D, Mr Ross inner conflict)

You should focus on the following four characters:

- Laurie
- David
- Mr Ben Ross
- Robert Billings

Theme – the essay may require you to describe...

- Key moments that show an important theme (Laurie and David's fight, final rally)
- The main ideas of the text (message or issue) What the text encourages you to

Think about the following themes:

History repeating, the urge to belong, how easy power can blind you, peer pressure, individuality...

and consider which particular characters these themes relate to

Plot – the essay may require you to describe...

- The relevance of the beginning
- An important moment / event
- The climax / high point
- The effectiveness of the conclusion

Think about the following events and their importance in the plot

First classroom scene with the Nazi film, the first Wave lesson, the first rally, D and Laurie's fight, final rally

HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR ANSWER

- 1) Choose the question carefully – look at **words in bold**, be clear what it is asking you to do
- 2) e.g: Describe what a character learns and explain why this was important can be separated
 - a) describe what a character learns AND
 - b) why this was important (TWO PARTS TO THE QUESTION)
- 3) Think about the ideas you will discuss

Aim to write 3-5 paragraphs

Brainstorm what the focus of each paragraph will be, e.g:

1st para – explain what Mr Ross learns as a result of running this 'experiment'

2nd para – 1st reason why this is imp. - it shows us how easily power can change someone

3rd para – 2nd reason why this is imp. - it shows us how easily history can repeat itself

4th para – 3rd reason why this is imp. - it shows us how destructive peer pressure can be

REMEMBER TO INCLUDE AN INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION

A POSSIBLE PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

STATEMENT

e.g "Mr Ross learns just how easily history can repeat itself.

EXAMPLE

He is concerned at the rumours of a Jewish boy being beaten up and wonders how much The Wave has had to do with this... (give quote)

X-PLANATION

without realising it, his students have begun to mirror aspects of the Nazi regime and think themselves superior to Non-Wave members.

YOUR OPINION

As I read 'The Wave' I was shocked how eagerly the students lapped up this new craze, and I wondered how people I knew would act in this situation.